



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

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*501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700  
Fax 916/554-2900*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SACRAMENTO DRUG KINGPIN SENTENCED  
TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that JOHN WESLEY JINGLES, age 38, of Sacramento, was sentenced to three terms of imprisonment for life, plus imprisonment for an additional 620 years to run concurrent with the life sentences, arising from his conviction of operating a continuing criminal enterprise and related drug trafficking, racketeering and money laundering charges. A federal court jury returned guilty verdicts against him on June 4, 2001 after a five week trial before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr.

JINGLES was convicted of one count of operating a continuing criminal enterprise, one count of conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine and crack cocaine, two counts of possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute (one of which represented multiple sales of 9 ounces apiece and the other of which represented multiple sales of 18 ounces apiece), sixteen counts of possession of one kilogram or more of cocaine with intent to distribute, two counts of interstate travel in aid of racketeering, one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering, and six counts of money laundering.

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Evidence introduced at trial showed that JINGLES initially entered into the conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine in the late 1980's in Sacramento, and steadily increased the size and scope of his operation until his arrest in 1999. The jury found that JINGLES managed at least seven other co-conspirators in his cocaine enterprise in Sacramento. In addition, JINGLES expanded his drug business to Mobile, Alabama where he organized and managed a network of cocaine distributors in that city.

Evidence presented at trial proved that JINGLES sold both crack cocaine and cocaine powder to a large number of distributors in Sacramento. JINGLES also used a network of couriers to "mule" multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine to Mobile, Alabama, and to mule the cash proceeds of sales of cocaine in Mobile back to Sacramento. Several witnesses testified about flying from Sacramento to Mobile to either mule cocaine to Mobile, or to convert cocaine powder to crack cocaine in Mobile.

There was testimony at trial that on several occasions, JINGLES gave large amounts of currency in Mobile to a co-conspirator whom he had flown from Sacramento to Mobile, with instructions to bring the currency back to Sacramento and place the currency into a safe deposit box which she had rented in her name. On one occasion, JINGLES' and this co-conspirator hid approximately \$86,000 in the spare tire of a car JINGLES had purchased in Mobile, and then together they drove the car back to Sacramento.

Agents seized \$32,000 in currency during the execution of a search warrant in Mobile, \$55,000 in currency in a vehicle stop in Rhome, Texas and \$6,100 in currency from the execution of a search warrant at JINGLES' home in Sacramento. Agents also seized a 9mm

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semi-automatic pistol with several magazines of ammunition, several clips of ammunition for an AK-47 or similar style assault rifle, and two magazines for a Chinese-made SKS military assault rifle.

Expert testimony at trial established that JINGLES had at least \$250,000 in expenditures from the proceeds of drug trafficking during the last two and one half years of the conspiracy. Evidence also established a large volume of cocaine sales in the eight to ten years of the conspiracy prior to the period covered by the financial analysis.

Several other co-defendants have already been sentenced. Walter Dawson, age 31, of Sacramento was sentenced to imprisonment for 15 years. Matthew Johnson, age 32, of Sacramento was sentenced to imprisonment for 4 years. Chantel Hearne, age 32, of Sacramento was sentenced to imprisonment for 14 months. April Brewer, age 29, of Sacramento was sentenced to probation for 5 years. Co-defendant Benjamin Mercado-Agredano, of Lodi, is a fugitive from justice. Co-defendant David Williams, the brother of defendant Jingles, was found guilty of first degree murder in an unrelated case in Superior Court for Sacramento County, and is pending sentencing.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Sacramento Police Department and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.